

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

Governor Daniels receives national education award

September 24, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels this week received the Founder's Award from the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program for his leadership and sustained commitment in bringing this national initiative to Indiana. JAG is a multi-year program designed to assist at-risk high school juniors and seniors in earning their high school diploma and achieving the skills necessary for post-secondary education or entering the job market.

"In 18 short months, Indiana has achieved the highest national performance for JAG participants," said Ken Smith, JAG president. "Indiana is leading the pack with the speed at which JAG has been implemented and the early results. Governor Daniels' support of JAG is making a decisive difference in the lives of thousands of young people."

Daniels announced Indiana's commitment to expand JAG into 30 additional schools, including seven in January 2009. Currently, more than 500 students, in 25 Indiana high schools, take part in the program. Students are taught up to 88 core competencies, such as critical thinking, team leadership and effective communications skills that will increase their marketability to employers. Several companies offer unique internships and job shadowing opportunities for the students. An advisory group at each school selects the 35 to 45 individuals that participate.

Students receive adult mentoring while in school and one year of follow-up counseling after graduation. Indiana's program has a 90 percent graduation rate and many students choose to continue their education after high school. The JAG program is funded through grants provided by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The non-profit Indiana Youth Institute provides technical assistance and coordinates the program.

"We are delighted to recognize the outstanding leadership Governor Daniels in bringing JAG to Indiana," said Maine Governor John Baldacci, JAG board chairman. "As a governor, I fully realize the many competing options for education and job training. Mitch selected one of the very best when he brought this program to Indiana."

"JAG doesn't work because of anything government does," said Governor Daniels. "We just helped get the ball rolling and moved out of the way. The teachers and principals who have welcomed JAG into their schools deserve the real credit, as do the companies who have decided to participate. Indiana will be a much stronger state because of this program."



September 24, 2008- Governor Daniels spoke with participants of the inaugural JAG Leadership Conference in Indianapolis.

In Fort Wayne, eight recent JAG graduates at Elmhurst High School earned more than \$300,000 in college scholarships for the 2009 school year. Nationally, 98 percent of employers involved with the JAG program hire JAG graduates and 86 percent of those new hires exceeded or greatly exceeded their expectations.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Three counties approved for federal assistance

September 22, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels received word late Monday that President George W. Bush has approved Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties for federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses damaged by flooding that began September 12.

In addition, he said the state will partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross to open five one-stop disaster assistance centers in northwest Indiana. Locations and more information can be found [here](#).

"We appreciate the quick turnaround to our request and the ongoing cooperation we've received from FEMA since last summer's record flooding in other areas of the state to partner with us to help Hoosiers," said Daniels.

FEMA assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in those counties can begin applying for FEMA assistance by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov/assistance> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired.

Governor requests federal assistance for three more counties

September 25, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels requested late Thursday that President George W. Bush add Harrison, Jefferson and Jennings counties to the disaster declaration for severe weather that began September 12.

If granted, the federal disaster declaration would qualify residents for individual assistance. Specifically, he has requested the Individual Assistance programs including the Individual and Household Program, Disaster Housing, Other Needs Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and US Small Business Administration Disaster Loans.

On September 23, Lake, LaPorte and Porter counties were designated for federal assistance.

Daniels indicated further damage may be identified and reserved the right to request the public assistance program when damage to the public infrastructure is better understood. Additional counties may also be added as part of the major disaster determination as damage assessments are completed. Other counties that have suffered severe damage include Clark, Crawford, Dearborn, Floyd, Jasper, Martin, Newton, Perry, Scott, Spencer and Switzerland.



September 18, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Hoosiers at the City Market in Indianapolis to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act.



September 18, 2008- Governor Daniels met with Hoosiers at the City Market in downtown Indianapolis during a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act hosted by the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

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Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!

Software developer to expand its central Indiana headquarters, double its workforce

Sept. 23, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from Software Engineering Professionals, Inc. (SEP) this week to announce the company's plans to expand its headquarters and development center in Carmel, creating nearly 90 new jobs over the next 5 years.

The employee-owned developer of enterprise and Web-based software applications for the aerospace, defense, medical and automotive markets will invest more than \$7 million to expand its operations in the northern Indianapolis suburb.

"There is no better story than that of a Hoosier business creating the kinds of 21st Century jobs found here at SEP. This is an excellent example of a technology-based business that is investing in Indiana and creating the types of jobs we need to further strengthen and diversify our economy," said Daniels.

Currently located in the Meridian Mark I Building, the company's 71-person workforce has earned accolades for its work in developing software applications and products for medical devices, healthcare information systems, engines and transmissions, airborne flight recorders, logistics management and electronic health records. The company plans to begin adding information technology associates, engineers and headquarters staff in 2009.

"SEP is making a commitment to Indiana where we have always enjoyed a positive business environment and capable workforce compatible with our culture and goals," said Jeff Gilbert, president of Software Engineering Professionals. "We are growing to meet the expectations and needs of our clients, and as important as employment growth is, SEP is growing, maturing and improving in many other ways that are just as exciting."

Founded in 1988 by four engineers from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, the tech developer has scored acclaim from the Indianapolis Business Journal as one of the 5 largest information technology companies in central Indiana and has earned ISO 9001:2000 certification.



September 23, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from Software Engineering Professionals, a software development company, to announce the company's plans to expand its headquarters and development center in Carmel creating nearly 90 new jobs.



September 24, 2008- The governor joined students, teachers and parents to welcome the inaugural Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Leadership Conference to Indianapolis. JAG's mission is to keep young people in school through graduation and provide work-based learning experiences that will lead to career advancement opportunities or to enroll in a postsecondary institution that leads to a rewarding career.

Check out the latest performance report [here](#).
View past reports [here](#).